

CLAIMS

1. A process for producing a polysuccinimide (co)polymer derivative which comprises reacting a polysuccinimide (co)polymer with a Lewis base by heating in the presence of a solvent having a low boiling point and high relative permittivity.
2. The process according to claim 1, wherein said Lewis base is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a straight or branched hydrocarbons of 1 to 18 carbon atoms having at least one group selected from the group consisting of an amino ($-NH_2-$) group, an imino ($-NH-$) group, a mercapto ($-SH$) group and a hydroxyl ($-OH$) group and ammonia.
3. The process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said solvent has a boiling point in the range of 50° to $150^\circ C$ and has a relative permittivity of not less than 20.
4. The process according to claim 3, wherein said solvent is water.
5. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the weight ratio of the solvent having a low boiling point and high relative permittivity to the polysuccinimide (co)polymer is in the range of 0.1 to 10.
6. The process according to any one of ~~claims 1 to 5~~ ^{claims 1 to 4}, wherein said Lewis base is sequentially to the polysuccinimide (co)polymer which has been fluidized in the presence of a solvent having a low boiling point and high relative permittivity.
7. The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ ^{claim 1}, wherein said reaction by heating is carried out in the presence of an acid catalyst.
8. The process according to claim 7, wherein said acid catalyst is at least one member selected among phosphorous

acid, boric acid and p-toluenesulfonic acid.

9. A polysuccinimide (co)polymer derivative produced by the process set forth in any one of ^{11/11/77}claims 1 to 8.

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